

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2003.

VAISAKHI MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION

Congratulations to the Khalsa Panth on Vaisakhi Day—In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi; Guru Gave Sovereignty to Sikh Nation, Sikh Nation Must Free Khalistan; Without Political Power, Nations Perish

DEAR KHALSA JI: WAHEGURU JIKAKHALSA, WAHEGURUJI KIATEH!

Happy Vaisakhi Day to you and your family, friends, and the Sangat. 304 years ago, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib established the Khalsa Panth, as desired by Almighty God. The Guru also gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation. That is the reason that Sikhs always recite "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa."

Sikhs established a sovereign, independent Sikh state under the leadership of Banda Singh Bahadur from 1710 to 1716, then under the Sikh misals from 1765 until 1799 when Maharajah Ranjit Singh established Khalsa Raj in Punjab, which lasted until 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent.

India is not a single nation. It is on the verge of disintegration. Multinational states like India historically have been doomed to disintegrate, as Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia have shown us. The Sikh Nation must do its best to establish Khalsa Raj as soon as possible. The political situation in the world is very fluid today. The Kashmir problem must be resolved through self-determination, which is the essence of democracy. As soon as Kashmir goes, India will disintegrate, as L.K. Advani forecast.

Outside Sikhs have played and must continue to play an important role in the present struggle for an independent Khalistan. They have exposed Indian government violations of basic human rights of Sikhs and other minorities. They have internationalized the Sikh struggle for an independent Khalistan. They have also preserved Sikh history by documenting major events since 1984 in the Congressional Record.

Three million Sikhs live outside of India. They constitute a major political force in many democratic countries, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and others. I appeal to all Sikhs to get involved in the political process to preserve their interests in their home countries. Secure the help of political parties and officials to help free Khalistan and to preserve Sikh interests in your respective countries and also to help protect the Sikhs back in Punjab, Khalistan. Every Sikh must become a citizen of the country where he or she lives and become part of the political process. Only by becoming politically active will Sikhs be able to achieve our objectives of a free Khalistan and preserve our interests in our adopted countries.

The next generations of Sikhs are citizens of these adopted countries. They were born there and they are going to stay. They must play a very constructive role in the political, social, and economic life of the country. Make sure that our children are very well educated. There should not be any Sikh child, boy or girl, who does not have at least an undergraduate university degree. Make sure that your sons and your daughters are well educated. Make sure they get the best education that they can. Only by educating our women will we secure a better future for the Sikh Nation and for our coming generations.

Remember that the Sikh Nation must free our Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. Without political power nations perish. It is essential for the survival of the Sikh Nation.

Colonial rule was better for everyone in India except the Brahmins than Indian rule is. We have been victimized by repression,

tyranny, discrimination, and other abuses of our basic, god-given rights. India has used genocide, murder, torture, rape, and everything in its arsenal to destroy the Sikh Nation. It has even blown up its own airliner to blame it on the Sikhs, as the book *Soft Target*, written by two Canadian journalists, proves beyond a doubt. They paid former Punjab governor Surendra Nath \$1.5 billion to foment and support terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

The present Sikh leadership is dishonest, corrupt, and completely under Indian control. They are complicit in the crimes of the Indian regime. The book *Chakravatyuh: Web of Indian Secularism* by Professor Gurtej Singh shows their complicity. They connived with the Indian government before the Golden Temple invasion to murder Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shahab Singh, and thousands of other good Sikhs who were working for Sikh freedom. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. The death sentence given to Professor Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar based on a false confession is the latest example of India's effort to eliminate the Sikh religion and intimidate the Sikh Nation.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Yet Chief Minister Amarinder Singh denies that there are any political prisoners at all. Have they murdered them all? The Indian regime paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs, according to a 1994 report from the U.S. State Department. Will the Indian government publish the names of those Sikhs who were murdered by those police officials to get rewards? On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared the independence of its homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

The Sikh nation has awakened. I call on all Sikhs to support the Khalsa Panchayat. These good Sikhs forced Jathedar Manjit Singh of Kesgarh to resign. Now Jathedar Vedanti must resign along with him. Please help the Khalsa Panchayat in these efforts. And work to build a party that will lead a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. Just as the Akalis took control from the Mahants of the last century, we must take control of our future from the new Mahants, the present Akali leadership and Indian-controlled Jathedars. We must liberate our homeland.

Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. Only then will the Sikh Nation get justice. India must start acting like a democracy and allow self-determination in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on independence for Punjab, Khalistan and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. Let us join hands to secure our freedom, for future generations and ourselves.

Panth Da Sewadar,

Dr. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President,
Council of Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO THE SEVENTH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry for their courageous ef-

forts in the Civil War that aided in the preservation of the Union, especially at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

In December of 1862, during the battle of Fredericksburg, the Union faced fierce opposition on the Rappahannock River and was forced to send men across the river to secure the Union's position. Members of the Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry from Ingham County were among the daring men who risked their lives that cold December day. Under heavy fire, the Seventh Infantry paddled across the river and successfully flushed Confederate riflemen from their shelter. Their bravery is forever remembered in Michigan's state anthem, "My Michigan, My Michigan."

More than 140 years later, on December 11, 2003, the Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry is being honored with a monument that is to be placed in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This monument is to remember the bold and daring efforts put forth by the Seventh Infantry throughout the Civil War. Their efforts held this nation together amidst a time of national divide and struggle.

The Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry has earned this place in our nation's history. In such a pivotal moment, the Seventh Infantry demonstrated bravery, determination and patriotism. They made their home state and their nation proud.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and the entire nation to the Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry for their courage in the battle of Fredericksburg. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their place in history and their part in restoring the Union.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARVIN BARRISH

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments and contributions of Mr. Marvin Barrish. It is a privilege to recognize a person whose personal triumph over injury pales in comparison to his triumphs for the disabled community.

Mr. Barrish is a former owner of five Center City newsstands and a former distinguished dancer whose talent led to an appearance in the movie "Rocky II". Tragically, in 1980, Mr. Barrish was shot in the back, paralyzing him from the waist down. He endured months of therapy only to concede to his inability to ever walk again.

Regardless of this physical setback, Marvin Barrish was determined to continue living abundantly and vivaciously. He underwent a grueling training regimen in order to compete in the 16-mile "Walk-a-thon" for the March of Dimes. He also appeared at the Philadelphia First Union Spectrum for the half time show of the Villanova-Georgetown game where he performed his "heel chair rockin'." Now his appearances cover a broad range of benefit performances for Philadelphia Children's Hospital, Shriners' Hospital, The Special Olympics, The United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, and the United Negro College Fund, just to name a few.

He has, accordingly, been acknowledged for his contributions to the community by both the